



Charles Rennie Mackintosh,  
© CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection

Mackintosh designed the Oak Room down to the tiniest detail, believing in the concept of the total work of art.



Catherine Cranston,  
©T&R Annan & Sons Ltd

One of Mackintosh's most important patrons, she believed that avant-garde interiors would enhance her business. Her tearooms across Glasgow were an important social space for the emerging middle-classes, especially women.

# Oak Room Timeline

- 1900 – Mackintosh commissioned by Catherine Cranston to design some interiors for her Ingram Street Tearooms.
- 1906/07 – Mackintosh starts work on the Oak Room.
- 1907-08 – Oak Room fitted out and opened.
- 1920 – Catherine Cranston hands over the business to her manageress Miss Drummond.
- 1930 – Tearooms pass to Messrs. Cooper & Co.
- 1950 – Tearooms acquired by Glasgow Corporation and converted into a Scottish souvenir shop. The panelling was painted, the fireplace was removed, and the street entrance door was moved.
- 1971 – After detailed documentation, the Mackintosh interiors were removed so the building could be converted into a hotel. The interiors entered Glasgow City Council's collection.
- 1990s-2000s – Research and conservation on the tearooms by Glasgow Museums.
- 2017-18 – Interior conserved by Charles Taylor Woodwork and redisplayed at V&A Dundee.





The Oak Room was part of Catherine Cranston's Ingram Street Tearooms. This is how the location looks today. The red box shows the location of the Oak Room. The entrance was on Miller Street. The yellow box shows the site of the whole Ingram Street Tearoom complex.



Model of the Ingram Street Tearooms made by Glasgow Museums,  
© CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection

The Oak Room is on the far right. On the ground floor, you would have exited the Oak Room straight into the Ladies Luncheon Room. On the mezzanine level, you would exit into the Oval Room. The Chinese Room is on the far left.





In 2005 Glasgow Museums were able to make a scale model of the room by matching up photographs of the panels and fittings from their stores to the plans made by Keppie Henderson Architects in 1971, when the room was dismantled.

Model made as part of the Ingram Street Tearooms Research and Assessment Project funded by the Scottish Executive, © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection



Customers in the Oak Room when  
operated by Coopers & Co,  
about 1950,  
©Herald and Times Group

This is the only photograph we  
have of the tearoom in operation.  
As it was taken over 40 years  
after it opened, there have  
probably been some changes to  
Mackintosh's original design.





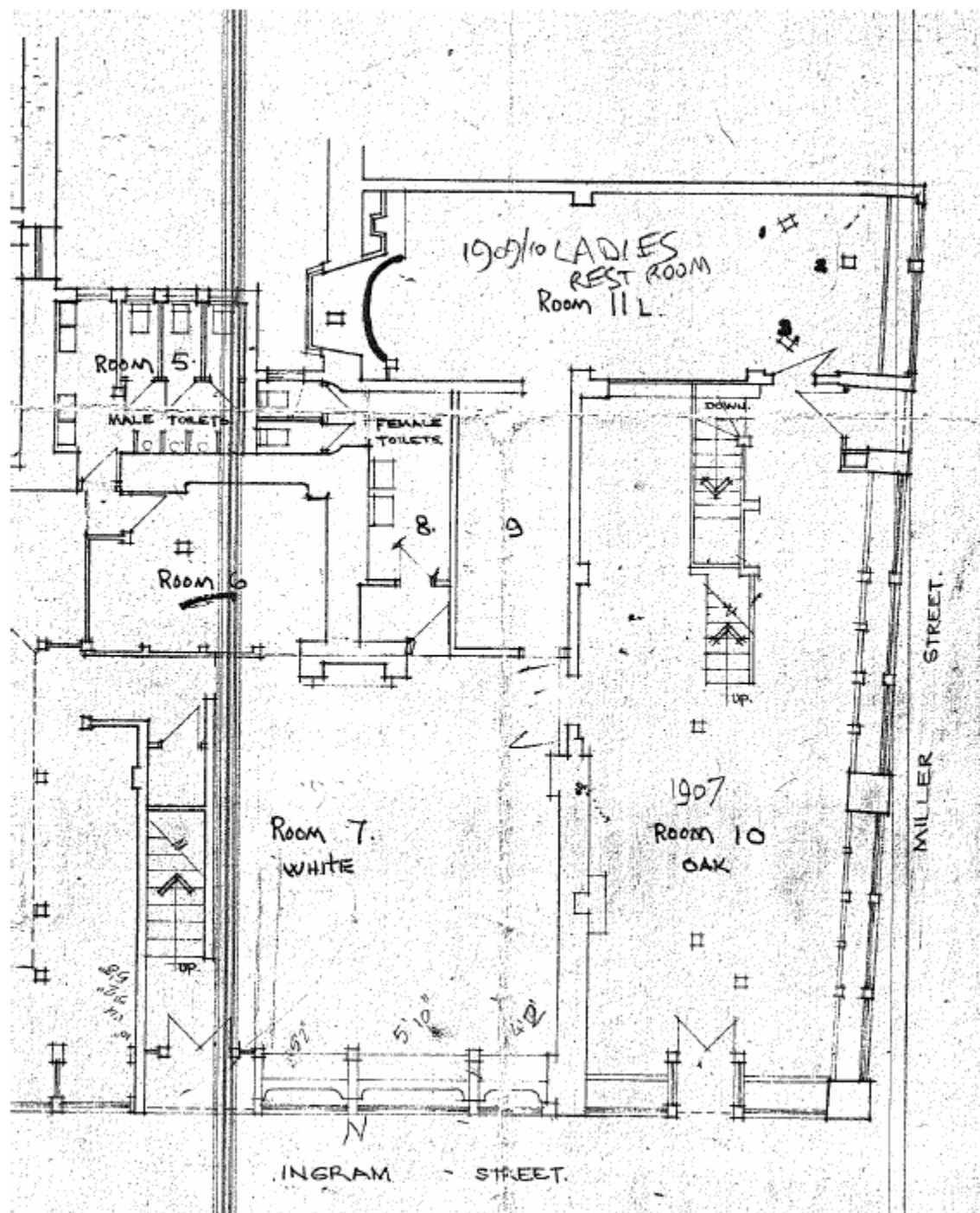
This sideboard is the only piece of furniture we know was designed for the Oak Room. It would have stood against the staircase screen near the visitor exit.

The blue glass squares on the upper shelves would have lined up with the blue glass squares on the staircase screen. It also has the wavy lathe detail.

Sideboard, 1907, Glasgow Museums  
E.1982.62

© CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection





Ground floor plan of Ingram  
Street Tearooms made in 1971  
before the removal of the  
interiors

© CSG CIC Glasgow Museums  
Collection



The Oak Room before it was dismantled, about 1971, ©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow  
You can see that by this time the wood had been stripped of the dark stain Mackintosh chose.





The Oak Room being dismantled before conversion into a hotel, 1971, ©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow  
The panelling was carefully removed and numbered so that one day it could be put back together.



10W88



10W90

10W88

Numbering on the backs of the panels



ISTR.10.L.S.009/0172

ISTR.10L.S.9

ISTR.10L.S.9

Numbering on the backs of the panels





The original wood stain was found behind an old light switch.  
After more research and testing, a wood stain to match the original colour was applied to the panels.





The steel frame that the Oak Room is mounted on. The whole room was reassembled off-site first, as a test, before being mounted at V&A Dundee.





The Library at Glasgow School of Art, designed  
by Mackintosh in 1907-09

The columns with square posts, 3-sided  
mezzanine and lampshades all take cues from  
the Oak Room.

# Where else can I see Mackintosh?

The Mackintosh House, The Hunterian, Glasgow

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow

The Hill House, Helensburgh

House for an Art Lover, Glasgow

Scotland Street School Museum, Glasgow

Mackintosh at the Willow (Willow Street Tearooms), Sauchiehall  
Street, Glasgow

The Lighthouse, Glasgow